Hoarding of foodgrains, pulses, etc.

†1550. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether traders/private companies have been stocking foodgrains, pulses, oilseeds, jaggery, sugar etc. in various Governmental and Non-Governmental warehouses of the country for the last three years and if so, the details thereof, yearwise and item-wise;

(b) the direction of Government in regard to stocking of the above said commodities and the manner in which they are being complied with;

(c) whether it is a fact that traders/private companies leave their stock with the farmers and circumvent rules by not providing it's account; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to stop it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The details relating to stocking foodgrains, pulses, oilseeds, jaggery, sugar etc. by traders/private companies in various Governmental and Non-Governmental warehouses of the country are not maintained in the Central Government. However, State Governments/UT Administrations have been empowered to fix stock limits in respect of pulses, edible oils, edible oilseeds, rice, paddy and sugar to enable them to take effective action under the Essential Commodities Act against hoarders and speculators and bring out the hoarded stock of these items into the open market. In respect of sugar, the Government of India have also fixed the following stock/turnover limits:

(i) in Kolkata and extended area -

(a) recognized dealers who import sugar from outside West Bengal – 10,000 quintals;

(b) other recognized dealers – 2000 quintals;

(ii) in other places - 2000 quintals.

No dealer can hold the stock of sugar for a period exceeding 30 days from the date of receipt by him of such stock.

Allocation of APL Price to Kerala

1551. SHRI A.VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central allotment of APL rice to Kerala has been reduced in March, 2007;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether steps would be taken to restore the APL quota;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.